

[SENATE BILL, No. 158.]

SENATE, December 14, 1863.—Read first and second times, and two hundred copies ordered to be printed.

[By Mr. SPARROW, from the Committee on Military Affairs.]

A BILL

To be entitled An Act to organize forces to serve during the war.

1 SECTION 1. *The Congress of the Confederate States of America do*
2 *enact*, That from and after the passage of this act, all white men
3 residents of the Confederate States, between the ages of sixteen
4 and fifty-five, shall be in the military service of the Confederate
4 States for the war.

1 SEC. 2. That all between the ages of sixteen and eighteen, and
2 between the ages of forty-five and fifty five shall belong to the
3 reserve, and be organized as hereinafter provided, and that all
4 those between the ages of eighteen and forty-five shall belong to
5 the army in the field.

1 SEC. 3. That all those who shall hereafter arrive at the age of
2 sixteen years, shall belong to, and be enrolled in the reserve, and
3 those who may hereafter arrive at the age of eighteen shall be
4 transferred from the reserve to the army in the field.

1 SEC. 4. That the reserve corps shall be used for local defence,

2 for post and garrison duty, and shall not be ordered beyond the
3 limits of their own States, except in cases of great emergency, in
4 the opinion of the Commanding General, and then not for a longer
5 period than thirty days. And that all details for provost and
6 hospital guards, for commissary and quartermaster's agents, for
7 service in enforcing the conscript acts, and for all other purposes,
8 except as hereinafter provided, shall be from this corps.

1 SEC. 5. That all persons liable to duty in the reserve corps
2 shall enroll themselves within such time, and at such place or
3 places, in their respective counties or parishes as may be
4 prescribed by the President, and that, upon failure to do so, the
5 person so failing shall be conscribed to the army in the field.

1 SEC. 6. That the organization of the reserve corps shall be
2 the same as that provided by existing laws for the army in the
3 field, and shall consist of infantry of the line, light infantry,
4 riflemen and mounted riflemen, in such proportions as may be
5 prescribed by the President, and the several companies, when
6 formed, shall elect their own officers, and be organized, under the
7 direction of the President, into battalions, regiments, brigades,
8 and divisions, as the case may be, and the officers thereto
9 appointed as now provided by law.

1 SEC. 7. That any existing organizations composed of non-
2 conscripts, may, in the discretion of the President, be received
3 into the service, and form a part of the reserve corps.

1 SEC. 8. That the officers, non-commissioned officers and
 2 privates, belonging to the said reserve corps, shall be entitled,
 3 whilst in actual service, but not otherwise, to the same pay and
 4 allowances now provided by law for the army in the field, under
 5 such regulations as may be prescribed by the Secretary of War.

1 SEC. 9. That no person shall be relieved from the operation of
 2 this law by reason of having been heretofore discharged from
 3 the army, where no disability now exists, nor shall those who
 4 have furnished substitutes be any longer exempted by reason
 5 thereof: *Provided*, That those who have paid into the public
 6 treasury the amount specified by the act in relation to
 7 exemptions, approved 11th October, 1862, and who may be held
 8 to service under this act, shall be repaid a fair proportion of
 9 the amount so paid by them, under rules to be prescribed by the
 10 Secretary of War.

1 SEC. 10. That all laws granting exemptions from military
 2 service be, and the same are hereby, repealed, and that hereafter
 3 none shall be exempt, except the following:

1 I. All who shall be held to be unfit for military service, under
 2 rules to be prescribed by the Secretary of War.

3 II. All officers of the Confederate and State Governments who
 4 are now exempted by acts of Congress, or of the State
 5 Legislatures.

6 III. Ministers of religion, superintendents of asylums, of the

7 deaf, dumb, and blind, and of the insane; one editor of each
8 newspaper, and the employees in newspaper establishments, and
9 physicians and apothecaries as now provided by law, and upon
10 the terms and conditions, and in the manner provided by the act
11 in relation to exemptions, approved 11th October, 1862.

1 SEC. 11. That the President be, and he is hereby, authorized
2 to grant details under general rules and regulations to be issued
3 from the War Department, either from the reserve or from the
4 army in the field, of skilled artizans and workmen to produce
5 munitions of war or other material necessary in carrying on the
6 war; and in all other cases, where, in his judgment, justice,
7 equity, and necessity, requires that he should make such details,
8 and he may revoke such order of details whenever he may think
9 proper.

1 SEC. 12. That nothing herein contained shall be construed to
2 repeal any part of the act entitled an act to provide further for
3 the public defence," approved 16th April, 1862, or of the act
4 amendatory thereto, approved 27th September, 1862, except as
5 herein expressly provided for.